Mountain Weather Forecast

Northwest Highlands

Including Sutherland, Ben Wyvis, Wester Ross, The Cuillin, Glen Affric, Glen Shiel and Knoydart
Forecast valid from 06:00 on Friday 25 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Saturday 26 Dec 2020

Forecast Issued on Friday 25 Dec 2020 at 01:18 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Low from Sunday with uncertainty in location of snow showers and strength of winds from Monday.

Headline for Friday 25 Dec 2020: Low cloud, patchy rain and summit snow. Severe gales and rain in the afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 25 Dec 2020

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy Snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
Medium Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow	Light snow	Sleet	Heavy Rain	Sleet	Light snow showers (night)
Precipitation probability					
30%	40%	50%	60%	60%	40%

Forecast for Friday 25 Dec 2020

Weather: Cloudy with patchy light rain, snow above 700m, near the west coast shortly before dawn. This turns to rain up to around 900m in the morning, eastern ranges dry but cloudy. Severe gale to storm force winds develop across the tops in the afternoon. A couple of hours of heavier more persistent rain to all levels from late afternoon, clearing in the evening to leave showers turning to snow down to 500-600m.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 20-30% in the morning, cloud often persistent above 600m, but occasional breaks, most likely across the Cullins and the far north late. Chances fall to nil for a few hours from mid-afternoon as cloud becomes extensive above 500m. Cloud then breaks up by early evening.

Visibility: Mostly poor on the tops in low cloud. Often good at low levels.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday 25 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	29/34 SW	37/46 SW	45/56 SW	46/58 SW	43/55 W	37/48 W	37/48 SW
900	27/33 SW	35/43 SW	42/53 SW	43/55 SW	41/53 W	35/46 W	35/46 SW
600	15/20 SW	24/32 SW	30/41 SW	30/42 SW	30/41 W	25/36 W	25/36 SW
300	1/20 SW	6/31 SW	9/39 SW	8/40 SW	10/42 W	9/36 W	9/36 SW
Glen	5/16 SW	9/24 SW	15/31 SW	18/37 SW	17/34 W	17/32 W	13/28 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	-1/-9	-0/-9	-0/-10	0/-8	0/-9	-1/-10	-2/-11
900	-0/-8	0/-8	1/-8	1/-7	1/-7	-1/-9	-1/-10
600	2/-4	2/-4	3/-4	3/-3	4/-3	2/-5	1/-6
300	3/1	4/1	5/2	5/2	6/3	4/0	4/0
Glen	5/3	6/3	7/4	8/4	8/4	6/2	6/2
Freezing Level*	900m	1000m	1000m	1200m	900m	800m	800m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View
Increasingly difficult conditions through the day with a high chance of being blown over. Bitterly cold despite rising freezing levels.

Forecast for Saturday 26 Dec 2020
Weather: Frequent showers merge to give persistent heavy rain in the early hours, this continuing throughout the day, falling as snow above 800-900m. Severe gales on the summits throughout the day, giving persistent blizzard conditions on the tops. Snow lowering to 400-500m around late evening.

Maximum wind: Southwest 40-45 gusting 55-60 mph, easing to 25 gusting 35-40 mph in the evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Nil, cloud persistent above 400-500m.

Visibility: Very poor throughout at height, near zero in persistent blizzards. A few km at low levels in heavy rain.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 4 or 5 Celsius
At 800m: Zero Celsius, falling to minus 1 Celsius late evening.
Freezing level: 900-1100m, falling to 400m late evening.

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